

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1427

Introduced by Assembly Member Maddox

February 21, 2003

An act relating to biological solids.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1427, as amended, Maddox. Biosolids: *study*.

The existing Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act generally requires the California regional water quality control boards to prescribe waste discharge requirements for individual waste discharges. The act requires the State Water Resources Control Board or a regional board, upon receipt of an application for waste discharge requirements for discharges of dewatered, treated, or chemically fixed sewage sludge and other biological solids, to prescribe general waste discharge requirements for those sludges and solids, as specified.

The existing California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, administered by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, establishes an integrated waste management program, including the regulation of solid waste disposal. Existing law authorizes the board to approve the use of compost, cocompost, and chemically fixed sewage sludge for use as solid waste landfill cover materials or for use as extenders for currently used cover material, if the board makes a specified evaluation.

~~This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would develop a comprehensive statewide policy regarding biosolids.~~

The bill would require the California Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, the regulated industry, local jurisdictions, and other stakeholders, to conduct a study, utilizing existing and appropriate scientific data, to determine the feasibility of establishing a statewide policy on biosolids treatment, disposal, and recycling. The bill would require this study to also examine alternative technologies for the treatment, disposal, and recycling of biosolids and identify areas, jurisdictions, and other markets that can utilize treated biosolids.

The bill would, on or before June 30, 2004, require the agency to report the findings developed under that study to the Legislature.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that
2 biosolids are primarily organic solids left from municipal
3 wastewater treatment processes.
4 ~~(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that~~
5 ~~would develop a comprehensive statewide policy regarding~~
6 ~~biosolids.~~
7 (b) *It is the intent of the Legislature to promote cooperation*
8 *among local governments on matters relating to the treatment,*
9 *disposal, and recycling of biosolids. This cooperation is necessary*
10 *to protect the public health and the environment. Contradictory*
11 *statewide approaches to the treatment, disposal, and recycling of*
12 *biosolids are not conducive to the proper management and*
13 *oversight of biosolids.*
14 SEC. 2. (a) *The California Environmental Protection*
15 *Agency, in consultation with the Department of Food an*
16 *Agriculture, the regulated industry, local jurisdictions, and other*
17 *stakeholders, shall conduct a study, utilizing existing and*
18 *appropriate scientific data, to determine the feasibility of*
19 *establishing a statewide policy on biosolids treatment, disposal,*
20 *and recycling. This study shall also examine alternative*
21 *technologies for the treatment, disposal, and recycling of*
22 *biosolids, and identify areas, jurisdictions, and other markets that*
23 *can utilize treated biosolids.*

1 ***(b) On or before June 30, 2004, the California Environmental***
2 ***Protection Agency shall report the findings under the study***
3 ***described in subdivision (a) to the Legislature.***

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